

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 01865 151428Z

46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-11 ACDA-05 MC-02 AID-05

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 613

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS, US

SUBJECT:FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON RETURNS TO ISRAEL

1. FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON, RETURNING TO ISRAEL MARCH 13, MADE FOLLOWING POINTS TO REPORTERS AT BEN GURION AIRPORT ON HIS WASHINGTON TALKS. DISCUSSING THE "END OF BELLIGERENCY" FORMULA, ALLON SAID THAT ISRAEL HAS SUBMITTED ITS INTERPRETATION OF THE TERM TO THE UNITED STATES AND THERE WAS NOTHING MORE FOR ISRAEL TO DO UNTIL A REPLY IS GIVEN BY THE ARABS AS TO WHETHER THEY ARE READY TO DISCUSS IT. "THE BALL IS IN THE HANDS OF THE ARABS AND THE U.S. WHICH IS A NATURAL AND DESIRABLE MEDIATOR...."

2. ON PROSPECTS OF SUPPLY OF U.S. ARMS TO EGYPT, ALLON SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO COMPROMISE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE U.S. ALLON ADDED THAT ISRAEL HAD FIRMLY OPPOSED THE AMERICAN MOVE TO SELL THE SIX TRANSPORT PLANES TO EGYPT, BUT THE U.S. INSISTED ON GOING AHEAD, SAYING IT CREATED NO PRECEDENT FOR FUTURE ARMS SALES. ALLON ALSO SAID THAT HE HAD GROUNDS TO HOPE THAT THE US WOULD NOT SUPPLY ARMS TO EGYPT

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PAGE 02 TEL AV 01865 151428Z

THIS YEAR APART FROM THE SIX C-130 HERCULES

AIRCRAFT.

3. TURNING TO THE DOMESTIC SCENE, ALLON TOLD REPORTERS THAT WHILE ABROAD HE WAS INFORMED THAT HE WAS BEING INVITED TO TAKE PART IN THE LABOR PARTY'S NEW STEERING FORUM. BEFORE DECIDING TO JOIN IT, HOWEVER, HE WISHED TO LEARN WHAT WAS INVOLVED, AND WHETHER OR NOT HE WOULD HAVE TIME FOR IT WHILE PERFORMING HIS ONEROUS DUTIES AD FOREIGN MINISTER.

4. ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE, ALLON BRIEFED THE CABINET MARCH 14 ON HIS DISCUSSIONS IN FRANCE, LATIN AMERICAN AND THE US.

5. IN ONLY EDITORIAL COMMENT, DAVAR MARCH 14 WRITES:
"THE ASSURANCE GIVEN BY DR. KISSINGER TO
MR. ALLON THAT, AT THIS STAGE, THE U.S. IS NOT CON-
TEMPLATING PROVIDING EGYPT WITH ARMS BEYOND THE SIX
HERCULES AIRCRAFT IS NOT FINAL,...THE ADMINIS-
TRATION WILL SEEK WAYS TO INCREASE ARMS SUPPLIES TO
CAIRO IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE IT ATTACHES TO BUILDING
UP U.S INFLUENCE IN EGYPT. THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE
TO THE FRIENDS OF ISRAEL CONTINUING THEIR CAMPAIGN
AMONG U.S PUBLIC OPINION AND IN CONGRESS. IT WOULD
BE WRONG TO DISMISS A TEMPORARY, TACTICAL RETREAT,
SUCH AS THAT OF THE ADMINISTRATION AT THIS STAGE, AS
UNIMPORTANT...."

6. COMMENT: GIVEN ISRAELI PREOCCUPATION WITH THE LEBANESE
SITUATION, THE LABOR PARTY CRISIS AND THE ECONOMY, ALLON'S
TRAVELS HAVE RECEIVED ONLY LIMITED MEDIA COVERAGE. AFTER
LAST WEEK'S STORM OVER PROPOSED U.S. ARMS SALES TO EGYPT,
ALLON'S REMARKS ABOUT THIS SUBJECT HAVE NOT ELIMINATED
DOUBTS REGARDING U.S.INTENTIONS IN ANY CASE ISRAELI
CONCERN CLEARLY TRANSCENDS LIMITED TIME FRAME TO WHICH ALLON
ADDRESSED HIMSELF.
TOON

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